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Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Australia, Austria, Georgia and Nigeria*: draft resolution

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations, in which it is stipulated that a function of the General Assembly is to consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms limitation,

Recalling its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 D of 3 December 1986, 42/39 J of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 D of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and its resolutions 46/36 F of 6 December 1991 and 47/52 G of 9 December 1992 on regional disarmament, including confidence-building measures,

Recalling also its subsequent resolutions on the Regional Centre, the most recent of which is resolution 72/60 of 4 December 2017,

Recalling further its resolution 71/56 of 5 December 2016, in which it recognized the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control,

Reaffirming the role of the Regional Centre in promoting disarmament, peace and security at the regional level,

Welcoming the continuing and deepening cooperation between the Regional Centre, the African Union and African subregional organizations in the context of the adoption of Agenda 2063 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, and in particular the objective of silencing the guns in Africa by 2020,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

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Welcoming also the work of the Regional Centre in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,[1] in particular Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and target 16.4, which addresses the reduction of illicit arms flows,

Recalling the decision taken by the Executive Council of the African Union at its eighth ordinary session, held in Khartoum from 16 to 21 January 2006,[2] in which the Council called upon member States to make voluntary contributions to the Regional Centre to maintain its operations,

Recalling also the call by the Secretary-General for continued financial and in-kind support from Member States, which would enable the Regional Centre to discharge its mandate in full and to respond more effectively to requests for assistance from African States,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Commends* the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for its sustained support to Member States in implementing disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation activities through seminars and conferences, capacity-building and training, policy and technical expertise, and information and advocacy at the regional and national levels;

3. *Welcomes* the continental dimension of the activities of the Regional Centre in response to the evolving needs of African Member States and the region's new and emerging challenges in the areas of disarmament, peace and security, including maritime security;

4. *Recalls* the undertaking by the Regional Centre to deepen its partnership with the African Union Commission in the context of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed on 19 April 2017, as well as with African subregional organizations, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to facilitate close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the African Union, in particular in the areas of disarmament, peace and security;

5. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Regional Centre to continental disarmament, peace and security, in particular its contribution to the implementation of Agenda 2063 adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the objective of silencing the guns in Africa and its master road map of practical steps to silence the guns in Africa by the year 2020, as well as its assistance to the African Commission on Nuclear Energy in its implementation of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba);[4]

6. *Also welcomes* efforts by the Regional Centre to promote the role and representation of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control activities;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the tangible achievements of the Regional Centre and the impact of the assistance that it provides to African States to control small arms and light weapons through capacity-building for national commissions on small arms and light weapons, defence and security forces, and United Nations peacekeeping mission personnel, as well as the support that the Centre provided to States in preventing the diversion of such weapons, in particular to non-State armed groups and terrorist groups,[5] and also notes with appreciation the assistance provided

[1] See resolution 70/1.

[2] A/60/693, annex II, decision EX.CL/Dec.263 (VIII).

[3] A/73/151.

[4] A/50/426, annex.

[5] Security Council resolution 2370 (2017).

by the Centre in the implementation of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention),[6] which entered into force on 8 March 2017, and its substantive support to the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, in the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials and on security sector reform initiatives, and to East Africa on programmes to control brokering of small arms and light weapons, including the additional assistance provided by the Centre to African Member States in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) of 28 April 2004 and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;[7]

8. *Commends* the Regional Centre for the support and assistance that it provided to African States, upon request, on the Arms Trade Treaty,[8] including through the organization of subregional and regional seminars and workshops;

9. *Urges* all States, as well as international, governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to enable the Regional Centre to carry out its programmes and activities and meet the needs of African States;

10. *Urges*, in particular, States members of the African Union to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, in conformity with the decision taken by the Executive Council of the African Union in Khartoum in January 2006;[2]

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Regional Centre with the support necessary for greater achievements and results;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa".

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[6] See A/65/517-S/2010/534, annex.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14860.

[8] See resolution 67/234 B.